Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer will be asked to investigate and report.

77. Improvement of the means of communication in the Kottayam taluk.

Mr. Kanakku Narayanan Kesavan (Member, Kottayam taluk) said that the Venchapalli Canal was in an unhealthy and miserable condition. There was no flow of water, and offensive effluvia from decayed leaves &c., used to arise from the canal. Consequently, the sanitation of the surrounding places was very unsatisfactory. The Member requested that the canal should be cut open from the Meenachil river for a distance of 80 links.

He next said that, though the Kottayam–Kumarakam road had been sanctioned in 1910, the work had not yet been finished. The delay caused much inconvenience to the public. He requested that orders might be issued to finish the work before the close of the year 1089 M. E. He further pointed out that the bridges now being built on the road were only foot-bridges. The road from Kottayam to Vycome *via* Kumarakam was a short cut and it would naturally become a cartable road sooner or later. He therefore proposed that, in lieu of the foot-bridges on the road, road-bridges should be constructed. He requested also that, at the end of the Kottayam–Kumarakam road, a bridge should be constructed at the Illikal kadavu.

For the construction of the Kottayam—Parippu road, a sum of about Rs. 9,000 had been sanctioned two years ago, but work had not yet commenced. Since he submitted his memoranda of subjects, he learnt that the Engineering Department had aligned the road. The length of the proposed road from Chungam kadavu in Kottayam to Parippu was eight miles. If the road were to begin from Kulappura kadavu, it would be only 4 miles in length and the amount now sanctioned would be enough for the purpose. The latter line would be preferable to the former. He requested that the road from Kulappura kadavu to the Parippu temple might be constructed without delay.

Lastly, the Member said that the necessity for the construction of a cartable road from the Kanjirapalli–Erattupetta road to the Ponkunnam–Lalam road had been brought to the notice of the Government through several petitions from the inhabitants of the locality. The Director of Agriculture was convinced of the necessity for the road in the interests of agriculture. He requested that favourable orders might be given in regard to the road, in consultation with the Chief Engineer and the Director of Agriculture.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

78. The need for the construction of a spacious boat-basin at a place to be acquired near the Cutcherry landing at Kottayam.

Mr. A. K. Varkey (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) said that the present boat-basin at the Cutcherry landing place, which had been constructed several years ago, was not large enough to hold the canoes, boats &c., that came there daily. Ever since the opening of the boat-basin, the town of Kottayam had been making progress in commerce. The boat-basin was partially silted up and it had become, narrower than before. The Member therefore made the following proposals, *viz.*, that

(1) A new reserve tank should be constructed a little south of the present basin, where alone extension was possible, for keeping empty canoes &c., and cartable roads provided on all sides.

(2) Arrangements should be made to keep the present tank always sufficiently deep by removing the silt, to enable any large cargo boat to land at the place.

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